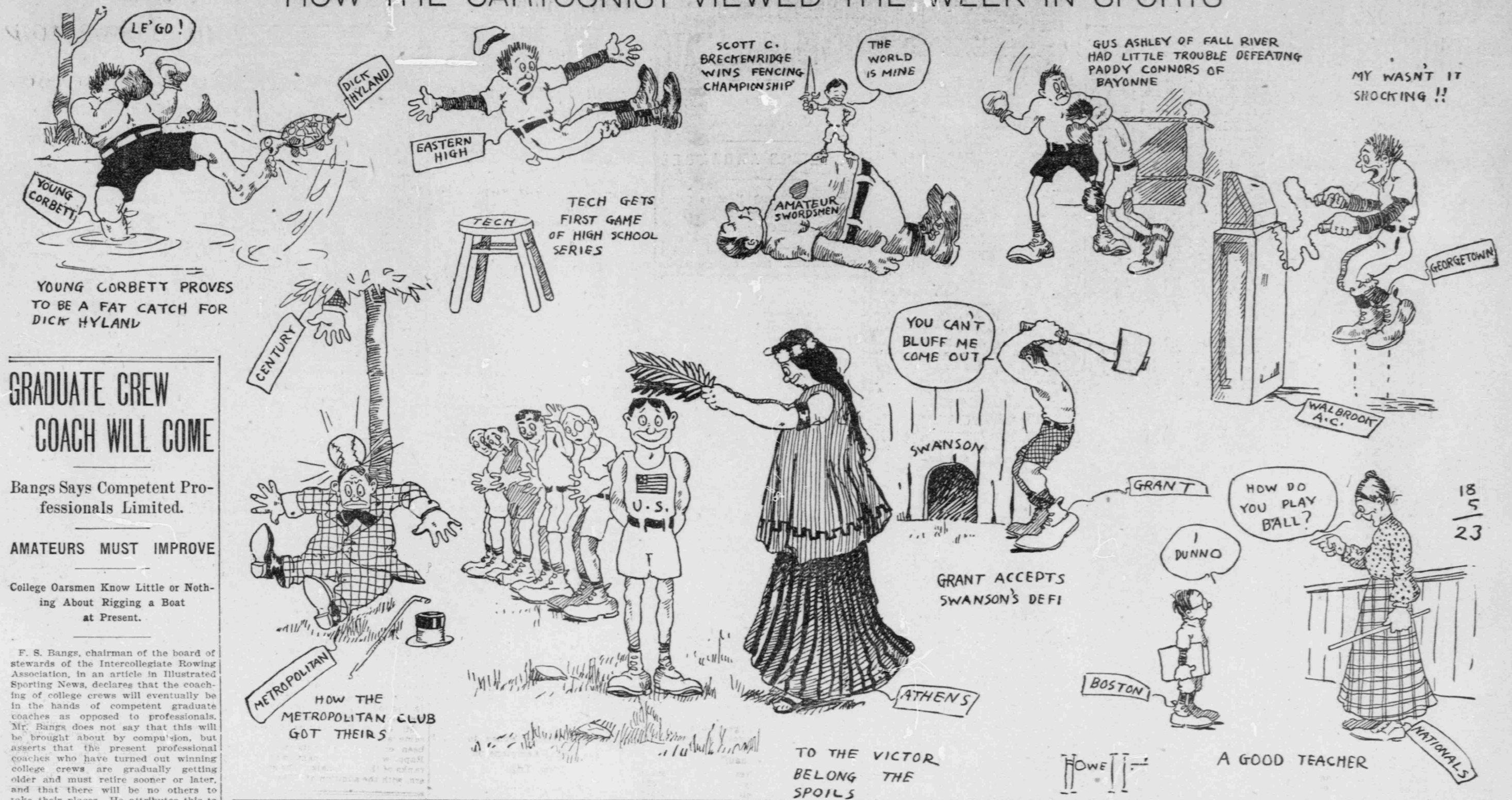


# BASEBALL \* GOLF \* RACING \* BOXING \* ROWING \* ATHLETICS

## HOW THE CARTOONIST VIEWED THE WEEK IN SPORTS



### GRADUATE CREW COACH WILL COME

Bangs Says Competent Professionals Limited.

### AMATEURS MUST IMPROVE

College Oarsmen Know Little or Nothing About Rigging a Boat at Present.

F. S. Bangs, chairman of the board of stewards of the Intercollegiate Rowing Association, in an article in Illustrated Sporting News, declares that the coaching of college crews will eventually be in the hands of competent graduate coaches as opposed to professionals. Mr. Bangs does not say that this will be brought about by compulsion, but asserts that the present professional coaches who have turned out winning college crews are gradually getting older and must retire sooner or later, and that there will be no others to take their place. He attributes this to the fact that interest in professional sculling has to a large extent died out.

Mr. Bangs does not attack professional coaches for college crews. In fact, he points out several reasons why they are better than the graduate coaches at present. He says in part:

#### No One to Take Their Places.

"The number of professionals competent to teach rowing and fitted to control young college men is limited and is not increasing. There are no longer professional scullers of the caliber and prominence of those of the '70s and '80s, and professional sculling has lost public interest. When the coaches of today retire, how will their places be filled?"

"Between the professional and the graduate coach, the professional, as a rule, is far superior, not only in handling an oar and knowing why, but especially in rigging a boat to fit the man or crew. To the experienced need not enlarge upon the value of the knowledge and skill of the professional in such details. The professional has been a sculler, accustomed to work out for himself every seeming trifle that makes his boat easier and so contributes to speed; he knows whether his seat or his outrigger is too high or too low, whether his oar-lock is in the right place or whether the size or weight or shape of his oar is wrong; he comprehends faults almost instinctively and corrects them himself; if he has the teaching faculty at all he is a good teacher; he gathers together a crew, gets rid of some of its personal defects, compromises the remainder, and adjusts his men into a harmonious whole with the oar, however ragged they may otherwise appear to be; he gets speed out of a crew, regardless of in-board form, while the average amateur produces a pretty crew without speed.

#### Undergraduate Dependent.

"On the other hand, the undergraduate learner of the common motor type is apt to be a dependent. He learns to handle one sweep on one side of a shell. As an oarsman he is lopsided and does not try to be anything else. He relies upon the coach to note and to correct his every fault and disdains attention to details. If his slide cuts his legs, if his oar handle skins his knees, if his blade does not drop into the water on time, he complains to the coach, who knows it already, and goes back to quarters. The coach stays in the boat-house, alters the rig and overcomes the mechanical difficulties, but the undergraduate makes no inquiry, cares nothing, learns nothing. What he does, he does because he is told. He is an unintelligent oarsman, unable to impart even his limited knowledge to others.

"This sort of thing need not be. It was not so in the days that produced a Blakie, a Cook, a Eustis, and a Goodwin. There is nothing in rowing that forbids a college man to become as intelligent an oarsman as a professional and just as good a teacher. If he will, Columbia has had its greatest successes under graduate coaching and under a system intended to develop individual intelligence in the boat. Between 1886 and 1897 there occurred a period of abject dependence upon a coach which added nothing to our available coaching material; but in the later years we have endeavored to build anew, and for a revival and continuance of the old spirit I plead. Columbia in thirty-four years of rowing has had five years of professional coaching. Its successes have been won under the graduate.

"When, therefore, we had occasion to seek a coach it was natural that out of the men available to us, we should choose one of our own graduates, particularly one who had been a member of our best self-coached crews, and the

teacher of winning crews that followed. We are told that our spirit is commendable, but our hopes of victory futile, and that, as one not unfriendly critic puts it, 'a graduate coach, as the average goes, has about as much chance with the genuine professional article as a lamprey eel has against hungry black bass,' and I am quoted (quite incorrectly) as saying that 'at present there is no more sport for Columbia in rowing at Poughkeepsie than there is for the hunter to kill a deer tethered to a tree.'

"Let us see! At Poughkeepsie, within the last two years, Columbia, coached by a graduate, has finished ahead of Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, and Georgetown, coached by professionals. In previous years, with the same professionals, Cornell has been beaten by Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, and Syracuse by Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, and Georgetown. If we are to abandon our coach, a graduate, because our crews have not won, should not the crews finishing behind us, the crews that they have beaten, also discard their coaches?"

"What I deduce from these facts is that the winning of races depends somewhat upon the crews themselves, and that the test of a coach is not the winning, but whether he has brought out the best qualities and made the best use of the material at his command. 'The stroke is half the crew.' Is rowing to be abandoned by crews whose coaches cannot be certain of matching Courney's happy record? Must five crews quit because a sixth crew wins?"

### HARVARD ATHLETES PLAY STRANGE FOOTBALL GAME

SPORTS—SUNDAY  
Looks Like Basketball to Un sophisticated Spectator—New Rule Permitting Forward Pass the Cause.

CAMBRIDGE, Mass., May 5.—Captain Foster and Coach Reid, of the Harvard football team, have twice had their men out for spring practice on Soldiers' Field, but had it not been for the announcement that football was to be played the unsophisticated spectator might well have taken the game to be basketball.

Practically the entire half-hour during which the men were on the field was devoted to teaching them the possibilities of the new rule allowing a forward pass. The ball was thrown from one man to another as the teams ran down the field. No one was allowed to run with the ball, or to fall on it in case of fumble.

It was a strange sight to see the men rushing about trying to get to the ball, and never a tackle or a run with the pigskin. The chief thing that was hammered into the men was to throw the ball before their opponents could tackle them.

The game looked very much like the Rugby game that was played last fall between the two Canadian teams that gave an exhibition here. It does not follow, however, that the new American game will be like the Rugby game, but in this one feature it resembles it closely.

### John McGraw Elucidates Finer Baseball Points

Trapping of Outfield Flies Still Practiced. Third Easier to Steal Than Second. When to Hit and Run.

BOSTON, May 5.—No matter what your feeling toward John McGraw, manager of the world's champions, may be, you must admit that he has been successful, and that he was not only a great player but has become a great manager. In view of this his opinions about matters baseball are worthy of consideration.

Among other things, McGraw said in conversation here yesterday, that he did not believe the old time ball players were better than those on the leading teams today. This subject is being very generally discussed among players at present. It is only natural that McGraw should think that his men are as good as any that ever happened, but he gives reasons for his views. He said, in the first place, that plays which made players of other days famous attracted attention because they were not often pulled off, and their infrequency made them stand out clearly. Malachi Kittredge, Lave Cross, and other veterans contend that this is not the case.

#### Trapping Still Practiced.

There was recently propounded by Kittredge the question about why the trapped outfield ball was not seen in these degenerate days. Willie Sudhoff and some others asserted that the play was so risky that no team could afford to try it. Kittredge declared that Tom McCarthy, of years ago, not only trapped flies to the outfield when men were on second and first, but made a practice of it.

The play is to take the ball on a short bound instead of on the fly and return it quickly to second. That forces the man on first, and in a great majority of cases the man who was on second has started for third when he sees that the fly has been missed. This man can then be tagged with the ball getting back to second or caught between bases before he has a chance to reach third. Quick and absolutely perfect work is required, and the play is dangerous because the ball may not be bound properly for the outfielder.

Instead of this trick being a lost art, McGraw asserted that already this season Sam Meites, left fielder for the Giants, had turned it three times, and Brown, right fielder on the same team, had gotten away with it once. Joe Kelly and the other outfielders associated with McGraw on the Baltimore team when that organization was winning the pennant by its nerve and dash, were always willing to try the trap if they had half a chance, and instead of its bobbing up sporadically in the team which McGraw is now man-

aging, it is a part of the regular curriculum through which he puts his men. McGraw was one of the best basemen who ever donned a shoe. In speaking of this important art he remarked that stealing third is easier than stealing second, and that every man who expects to shine as a purloiner of sacks should remember that fact. His reason is that the runner can get a longer lead of second and that the other side is so busy looking for bunts, hit-and-run, and other devices to advance the man that it cannot afford to set itself for the purpose of catching the runner. McGraw himself was so bold and successful in stealing third that he may be optimistic about what less gifted men can do, but his words are worth pondering.

What was said about the larceny of third McGraw also applied to the hit-and-run with a good stickler up in many cases it was better to let the batter slug the ball if first were the only base occupied. With a runner on first the other side adapts itself more easily to the attempted hit-and-run, the man on the base cannot get an extra good lead, and the batter cannot see the signals as well. This difficulty about signals applies especially to left-handed batters.

When to Hit and Run. When the runner is on second there is no trouble about signals, and there is less chance of a double play if the batter should fall in his purpose and not make the proper kind of a hit through the infield. Here again Kittredge and Cross admit that McGraw has advanced a sound proposition.

The little manager is very sweet on Roger Bresnahan, and says he is the best catcher in the business. I have not seen Bresnahan play since he left Baltimore, but even then he was a corker and was one of the most valuable men who made the famous secret jump to New York. McGraw likes him because he is a remarkably good watter in getting passes, can hit well and drive the ball far, is not given to striking out, can run bases in a sensational manner, and throws and fields his position like a star. His manager says he gets on bases about three out of five times up, which is all that could be asked of anybody. The other two times he is apt

to sacrifice, hit with the runner, or drive a timely long fly.

I once saw Bresnahan pull off a peculiar play which won a game for Baltimore. He was on third in the ninth inning and the score was tied. His skill and nerve at such feats as stealing home were well known to the opposing pitcher, and he knew the pitcher had a wholesome regard for him. Taking a long lead off third Bresnahan waited until the pitcher was all wound up. Then letting out a whoop like a Comanche Indian and yelling "Look out!" he made a fake run for the plate. The pitcher was so startled that he unwound, looked toward third, and threw the ball there to catch Bresnahan, who had easily returned to the bag, and had never started for home at all.

It was a most glaring and palpable balk, and Bresnahan was given his base which scored the needed run. The rainy weather figured the scheme suddenly because there were two out and the Baltimore pitcher, who was batting, was a notoriously weak hitter. His good judgment was shown when the pitcher struck out, retiring the side.

### ENGLAND WILL HAVE AMATEUR BASEBALL

LONDON, May 5.—A large number of prospective baseball players, including several Englishmen who played the game in the United States, are at the Charterhouse Hotel to take part in a discussion on the proposed revival of the game in England.

Great stress has been laid by nearly all the visitors on the importance of fostering amateurism, and it has been agreed that it will be advisable to come to an arrangement with the National League of America to prevent the importation of American professional players.

Tess—Cholly is too stupid! Jess—In particular? Tess—Why, we were at the beach at the same time last summer, and when I said I wanted to learn to swim he said I couldn't fool him—that he had seen me swim the summer before.—American Spectator.

### SLOSSON-SUTTON MATCH IS BOOKED FOR OCTOBER

Regulation Time Is Postponed—George Sutton and Sutton, the Armless Wonder, Not the Same.

NEW YORK, May 5.—The billiard match between George Slosson and George Sutton to decide the 182 balk-line championship will be played in this city the latter part of next October.

Slosson won the recent 182 tournament, and with it the championship at that style of game. Before the tournament was over Sutton challenged the winner.

The rules require that matches be played within sixty days of the challenge, but by mutual consent the Slosson-Sutton match has gone over until next fall. This is a better time to play it than in the summer.

There seems to be an impression in some quarters that Sutton is an armless billiard player. This doubtless is due to the fact that there is an armless player named Sutton, and a good player he is. But he is not the George Sutton who played in the 182 tourney. The armless Sutton plays well, but is not in the championship class.

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### NEBRASKA-MINNESOTA IN DUAL TRACK MEET

LINCOLN, Neb., May 5.—The conclusion of arrangements for a track meet between Minnesota and Nebraska University has been officially announced by Dr. Chapp, the cornhuskers' physical director.

The athletes of the two institutions are to measure skill Saturday, May 19, on Northrup Field in Minneapolis. It is the expectation at Nebraska that the coming meet is to be the forerunner of an annual contest, that of next year to be held in Lincoln and alternating thereafter.

Nebraska has also booked a track meet with Kansas, for May 26, in Lincoln. The athletes from Nebraska have been practicing steadily for the past three weeks and by May 19 Dr. Chapp expects to have his squad in trim to give the gophers a spirited fight for the honors.



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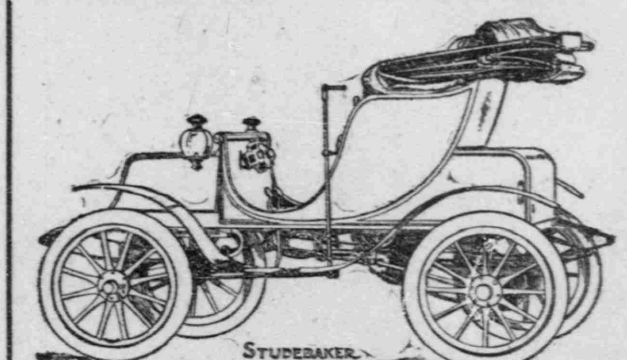
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